

In the Claims

1 1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing security with respect to who
2 provided digital data at what time, said method comprising the steps of:
3 performing a serially chained certification process including:
4 a) forming a first interval certification at a first server including the server's
5 identification, the start time of an interval chain in ~~UTC~~ Coordinated Universal
6 Time, the start time of the interval in ~~UTC~~ Coordinated Universal Time, the stop
7 time of the interval, a public key for the interval, a digital signature for the
8 interval, signed by a previous interval's private key, and a digital signature for the
9 interval, signed by the interval's private key;
10 b) upon expiration of the first interval, destroying its private key;
11 c) continuing steps (a) and (b) for second, third, and following intervals so that intervals
12 are cross-chained with other servers to form a widely witnessed, temporal web of
13 signed intervals of time; and
14 encoding certification information in graphical form to form an indicia that
15 relates to the authenticity of the document.

1 2. (Unamended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
2 decoding the indicia to authenticate a document.